

## Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-08 SCI-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 /101 W

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O 072054Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1526

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINT, MX

SUBJECT: SALINITY AND OPPOSITION-PARTY ATTACK ON FONSEC RABASA

REF: A. MEXICO 3702 B. TORREY-ESTEP TELECON MAY 7

1. AS BEST WE CAN FATHOM CAUSE OF RABASA'S CONCERN, AS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED IN MAY 6 TELECON WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH, IT IS AN ATTACK BY OPPOSITION PARTIDO ACCION NACIONAL ON RABASA AND ON MEXICAN SENATE WHICH TAKES OFF FROM ALLEGED LETTER TO SEN. JACKSON BY "COMMITTEE FOR AN OPEN SOCIETY" (COS).

2. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, THE SUPPOSED COS LETTER WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN EFE DISPATCH CARRIED IN SEVERAL MORNING DAILIES MAY 6, AND THE THRUST OF THAT LETTER WAS A DENUNCIATION OF "ATTEMPTS BY DEPT OF STATE TO NULLIFY COLORADO RIVER SALINTIY ACCORD" BETWEEN US AND MEXICO. THE SUPPOSED COS LETTER AS REPORTED BY EFE CONTAINS NO PRT NO EXPLICIT CRITICISM OF RABASA OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR INSTITUTION IN MEXICO; THE NEAREST APPROACH TO IMPLICIT CRITICISM IS THE COS ALLEGATION THAT THE RABASA-BROWNELL AGREEMENT OF AUGUST 1973 "TENDS ONLY TO OBIATE MEXICO'S TAKING THE CASE TO AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL."

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3. HOWEVER, PAN LEADER FOR FEDERAL DISTRICT, DIP. JOSE DE JUSUS

MARTINEZ GIL, SEIZED ON THE EFE ACCOUNT OF THE COS LETTER TO MOUNT AN ATTACK ON RABASA AND THE MEXICAN SENATE; HIS REMARKS WERE GIVEN FRONT-PAGE BUT RELATIVELY LOW-KEY TREATMENT BY EXCELSIOR'S AFTERNOON PAPER ULTIMAS NOTICIAS ON MAY 6 UNDER HEADLINE "AGREEMENTS THAT 'DAMAGE THE COUNTRY'." MARTINEZ GIL IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT RABASA AND THE SENATE HAVE "DECEIVED THE MEXICAN PEOPLE" BY SIGNING TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS PREJUDICIAL TO MEXICO, SPECIFICALLY THE "TREATIES" (SIC) REGARDING SALINITY "WHICH CONTINUE INOPERATIVE, DESPITE THE REGIME'S PROPAGANDA WHICH TRIES TO PROVE THE CONTRARY." MARTINEZ GIL REPORTEDLY ADDED: "IT IS THE CROWNING BLOW" THAT THIS DECEPTION HAD TO BE DENOUNCED BY A NORTH AMERICAN GROUP: THE COS. MARTINEZ GIL WENT ON TO CITE THE EFE DISPATCH'S QUOTATION FROM COS THAT THE ONLY RESULT OF AUGUST 1973 AGREEMENT WAS TO PRECLUDE MEXICO'S TAKING CASE TO AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL. HE CONCLUDED BY CLAIMING THAT OTHER AGREEMENTS, "SUCH AS THAT CONCERNING BRACERSO," (SIC), ARE ALSO INJURIOUS TO MEXICO, AND BY DENOUNCING GOM FOR SAYING THAT THAT PROBLEMS SUCH AS SALINITY HAVE BEEN RESOLVED, OR ARE ABOUT TO BE, WHEN THIS IS NOT IN FACT THE CASE.

4. EL NACIONAL OF MAY 7 CARRIES WHAT PURPORTS TO BE AN INTERVIEW WITH ITS EDITOR, SEN. ALEJANDRO CARRILLO (IDENTIFIED BY HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE) IN WHICH HE GIVES DETAILED HISTORY OF AUGUST 1973 AGREEMENT AND MINUTE 242; EXPLAINS NEED FOR ACTION BY US CONGRESS; AND IMPLICITLY DEFENDS EQUITY OF AGREEMENT.

CARRILLO CONCLUDES BY SAYING "IT IS THEREFORE MOST LAMENTABLE --ALTHOUGH IN NO WAY STRANGE -- THAT A PROMINENT LEADER OF THE PAN SHOULD HAVE GIVEN VENT ...TO A SERIES OF INSULTS REPRESENTING THE HEIGHT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY AND IGNORANCE BY STATING THAT NOT ONLY THE SALINITY AGREEMENT BUT MANY OTHER, SUCH AS THE BRACERO AGREEMENT, ARE PREJUDICIAL TO MEXICO. ALL OUR COMPATRIOTS KNOW THAT AT THE PRESENT THERE IS NO AGREEMENT CONCERNING BRACEROS."

5. COPIES OF RELEVANT ARTICLES BEING POUCHED MAY 7, ATTENTION ARA/MEX. WOULD WELCOME CONFIRMATION FROM DEPT THAT IT WAS THIS ATTACK BY PAN (AND/OR COS) THAT RABASA DISCUSSED IN TELECON WITH KUBISCH.

6. WHEN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON RABASA EVENING MAY 6 ON OTHER MATTERS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RABASA NOTED THAT HE WAS NOW "UNDER ATTACK BY THE SAME PEOPLE WHO ATTACKED YOU, " A REFERENCE TO COS OPPOSITION TO AMBASSADOR'S NOMINATION. RABASA ADDED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS CALLS ABOUT THE "ATTACK" (EVIDENTLY INVITATIONS TO COMMENT ON COS LETTER AND/OR PAN ATTACK) BUT HAD BRUSHED OFF THESE REQUESTS.

7. COMMENT: RABASA IS NOTORIOUSLY SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES FROM WHAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED THE

INTELLECTUAL LEFT (E.G., EXCELSIOR COLUMNIST DEL VILLAR WHO RECENTLY CHIDED HIM FOR "KISSINGERISM"). THIS PARTICULAR ATTACK BY THE PAN, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO US TO BE NO MORE THAN ROUTINE AND UNUSUALLY ILL-FOUNDED. APART FROM CARRILLO'S REBUTTAL, PAN ATTACK GOT LITTLE OR NO ATTENTION IN LOCAL PRESS MAY 7 --LA PRENSA WAS ONLY OTHER PAPER CARRYING CARRILLO STATEMENT -- AND RABASA WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE MORE THAN ADEQUATE DEFENSE FROM CARRILLO. WE DO NOT, OF COURSE, HAVE FULL TEXT (REQUESTED REFTEL) OF COS LETTER TO SEN. JACKSON, BUT EXCERPTS AVAILABLE HERE DO NOT SUGGEST THAT IT CONSTITUTES A WORRISOME ATTACK ON RABASA EITHER.

8. WE ARE THEREFORE OBLIGED TO SPECULATE THAT RABASA MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO USE THIS UNEXCEPTIONAL PAN OUTBURST, OR THE COS LETTER ON WHICH IT IS BASED, AS A MEANS OF PRESSURING USG TO SPEED PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT SALINITY AGREEMENT. AT VERY LEAST, RABASA WOULD SEEM TO BE CRYING "WOLF".  
JOVA

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## Message Attributes

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